

In the children's hearts no stirrings <sup>at Sp/Conc 22</sup>

That - to them - is horror brought!

We are beginning at - angels to ponder some of  
the sayings about - children: that there are the first  
in the kingdom of heaven: that their angels do  
ever behold the face of God: & that it were better  
for a man that a millstone were hung  
about his neck & he were cast into the depths  
of the sea than that he should offend a child.  
This gospel of the higher estate of childhood is  
only beginning to dawn upon us, whether we  
are to come to a full knowledge of the truth  
depends. I think, on the use we make of such  
light as we have gained. And here we are  
walking blindfold amongst pitfalls many -  
with mere glimmerings of light on our way. For  
this childhoodship is, after all, no more than  
a movement - in one direction of that  
cult - of humanity - which is threatening us  
all, & which may lead us to the apprehension  
of

the evolution of a being, who added to his own  
charm of innocence shows daily unex-  
pected traits of force, delicacy, refinement, & the  
recognition & rejoiced in as family characteristics.  
This peculiar loveliness in the children is to  
be expected if we look upon them as redeemed  
beings. We cannot too much appreciate &  
rejoice in the sweetness & beauty of natural children  
& parents must needs take some pride in traits  
of courage, courtesy, grace, which they see  
belong to their children by right - of descent.  
But here, it seems to me, it is necessary  
to enter a protest. This tendency to admire  
what there is in the children as human  
beings, & what there is in them as scenic  
beings, may incline us to let  
them alone more than is wholesome. In  
all those families in which the  
children practically bring themselves up, the

the divine Son of man. & may land us in the  
sterile places where the Protestant sits, without  
God in the world. Literature, history, biography,  
art, science, charity herself, as in league to  
magnify <sup>nature...</sup> ~~humanity~~ <sup>little</sup> matters at what  
cost. And no wonder that this endeavor should  
lead to the steady setting forth of human  
nature at its loveliest - in the persons of the  
children.

The character novel has had its full share  
in fostering this tendency to aesthetic ad-  
miration. We all know of our most pleasant  
& helpful writers - who has given us convincing  
studies of lovely family life, & who they  
perhaps been the strongest of the influences  
at-work in moulding the 'nice' people  
of one or two generations. How has  
people enjoy one another! how they  
appreciate every delicate turn of character,  
touch of refinement! One feels promoted

in the company of such pleasant  
 appreciative people; like the man whose  
 eyes were opened, we look about for delightful  
 traits of meekness, sweetness, devotion,  
 in the people belonging to us. I. is good &  
 wholesome to admire, & no doubt the  
 world is the better for having had its eyes  
 opened to beauty of character in unexpected  
 places.

The mother above all others sits down  
 to a perpetual feast: of this is that heart  
 is lovely in the grown up, how much  
 more lovely the spontaneous outgoings  
 of the child! All childhood is lovely, unless  
 as it is marred by the heedlessness  
 or the wickedness of its prerogatives,  
 & how lovely is the child ~~who inherits~~  
<sup>her</sup> strength & sweetness from by inheritance  
 & her delightful tone mother towards

What - get - I from my father?

Lusty lip, vigorous will;

What - from my gentle mother?

Cheerful days, & poet's skill: -

Says Goethe: <sup>like the rest of us,</sup> ~~poets~~ poets are born. not-made,  
 & get - the most - of what - they are from their  
 parents. But - it - did not - take a poet -  
~~a modern scientist~~ to discover this.  
 People ~~seem~~ to have known it - turn out  
 of mind. Like father. like child: - they said,  
 & were satisfied, for it - was not the way  
 in earlier days to thrust out the poet's  
 facts of life. Not - so now: we talk about it  
 & about - it, call it - heredity, state it with  
 count in our notions at - any rate, if not - in  
 our practice. Nobody writes a biography now  
 without attempting to produce <sup>acceptors</sup> antecedents &  
 early surroundings that shall account for his

It is at once a divine law, with the promise  
of great reward, & an instrument put into  
the hands of parents to enable them to train their  
almost-divine generation of moulding character.  
It is no substitute for the grace of God: it is  
the grace of God, as truly as sunlight,  
spring flowers, children's faces, manifest  
that grace. And what is more, it is only the  
Christian parent - who works this law to its  
perfect - issues: others try, laboriously &  
methodically, but they surely overlook a leak  
somewhere which lets in the flood & sinks  
the vessel. Perhaps the reason why many  
Christian people don't reach a higher standard  
of perfection is because they don't use persistently  
of purpose, this instrument for the moulding  
of character which has been put in their hands.  
But if we neglect - to use it for ourselves,  
we will for our children: at any rate, others  
will